

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 16, 2013
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye, Chair	Joseph La Rue, State Transportation Board
Vice Mayor Jack Sellers, Chandler, Vice Chair	# Lt. Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River
# F. Rockne Arnett, Citizens Transportation	Indian Community
Oversight Committee	Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear
Ron Barnes, Total Transit	# Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
Dave Berry, Swift Transportation	Garrett Newland, Macerich
Jed Billings, FNF Construction	Mayor Tom Rankin, Florence
Councilmember Cathy Carlat, Peoria	# Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale
# Vice Mayor Ben Cooper, Gilbert	# Mayor Scott Smith, Mesa
* Supervisor Clint Hickman, Maricopa County	Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix
* Mark Killian, The Killian Company/Sunny	# Karrin Kunasek Taylor, DMB Properties
Mesa, Inc.	Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale
Mayor W. J. "Jim" Lane, Scottsdale	Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise

* Not present

Participated by telephone conference call

+ Participated by videoconference call

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) was called to order by Chair Mayor Jackie Meck at 12:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Roc Arnett, Vice Mayor Ben Cooper, Lt. Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Mayor Mark Mitchell, Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor Scott Smith, and Karrin Kunasek Taylor participated in the meeting by telephone.

Chair Meck announced that on October 9, 2013, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval of items #4B, #6 and #7 that were on the October 16 TPC agenda.

Chair Meck requested that members of the public fill out blue cards for Call to the Audience and yellow cards for consent or action items on the agenda. He stated that parking garage validation and transit tickets for those who purchased transit tickets to attend the meeting were available from staff.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Meck stated that an opportunity is provided to the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

No requests for public comment were received.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Meck stated that agenda items #4A and #4B were on the consent agenda.

He stated that public comment is provided for consent items, and noted that no public comment cards had been received.

Chair Meck asked members if they would like to remove any of the consent agenda items or have a presentation. No requests were noted.

Mayor Georgia Lord moved to recommend approval of agenda items #4A and #4B on the consent agenda. Mr. Garrett Newland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4A. Approval of the September 18, 2013, Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, approved the September 18, 2013, meeting minutes.

4B. Transit Project Changes - Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Policy Committee, by consent, recommended approval of the amendments and administrative modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate to the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update. The FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 28, 2010, and have been modified twenty-nine times. Since then, there is a need to modify transit projects in the programs. The proposed project

changes include project modifications and new projects. On October 9, 2013, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval of the amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate to the Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update.

5. FY 2014 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity

Jason Stephens, MAG staff, reported on the public involvement process MAG conducted on transportation plans and programs for the Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity on the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Draft FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program TIP). Mr. Stephens noted that MAG has a four phase public involvement process, and the Mid-Phase input opportunity allows for input on draft programs and plans prior to committees taking action.

Mr. Stephens stated that during the mid phase, MAG received public comment at its policy committees, as well as at small and large group presentations, a public meeting and via web and telephone correspondence. He said that MAG sent approximately 3,000 postcards to solicit input on the updated TIP and RTP. Mr. Stephens stated that advertisements for the public meeting were published in local newspapers.

Mr. Stephens displayed a summary of questions and comments received, most of which centered on transit and economic development. He noted that all of the public input was included in the report contained in the agenda packet.

Chair Meck thanked Mr. Stephens for his report. No questions were noted.

6. Approval of the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Roger Herzog, MAG staff, reported on the Draft MAG 2035 RTP, which was on the agenda for possible action to recommend approval for an air quality conformity analysis. He explained that an air quality conformity analysis of the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan needs to be conducted prior to consideration of the RTP for final approval.

Mr. Herzog proceeded to report on key elements of the RTP, which identifies policies, projects and priorities for long-range transportation investments in the MAG region through fiscal year 2035. He noted that the Draft 2035 RTP is basically a continuation of the currently approved Plan.

Mr. Herzog stated that on May 9, 2013, the Governor approved an expanded metropolitan planning area for the MAG region, which now extends significantly into Pinal County to include the existing urbanized area as defined by the census, and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized with a 20-year forecast.

Mr. Herzog reported that growth in the region will continue to be a major factor in planning for the future. He said that population is forecasted to increase by 54 percent between 2010 and 2035.

Mr. Herzog stated that the total funding estimated to be available for the Draft 2035 RTP is \$59 billion during the planning period. It is estimated that about one-half of the funding will come from local sources and one-half from regional sources. Mr. Herzog indicated that of the total funding, approximately one-half is applied to the arterial network, one-quarter to transit services, and one-quarter to the freeway system. These amounts include approximately half to capital projects, and half to operations and maintenance costs.

Mr. Herzog stated that the 2035 RTP identifies a future freeway/highway system that has approximately 20 percent more lane-miles than today's system. By 2035, it is estimated that it will carry about 40 percent of the total daily traffic in the region.

Mr. Herzog stated that the arterial street network is another key element of the regional transportation system. The RTP identifies a future arterial network that will carry approximately one-half the total daily traffic in the region in 2035.

Mr. Herzog stated that the bus network represents another vital transportation service in the region. The 2035 RTP identifies a future bus service network that has approximately 20 percent more bus miles than today's system.

Mr. Herzog stated that the light rail transit/high capacity transit system is a second major element of transit service in the region. The RTP identifies a future light rail transit/high capacity transit system that has three times the total route miles compared today's system. It is estimated that by 2035, the light rail transit/high capacity transit system will account for 38 percent of the total daily transit boardings in the region.

Mr. Herzog stated that the 2035 RTP includes specific listings of regionally funded projects: arterials, freeway/highway, regional bus, and light rail/high capacity transit. He reported that the 2035 RTP also includes other transportation activities, such as bicycle and pedestrian planning, demand management, transportation system operations, transportation safety, freight planning, and special needs planning.

Mr. Herzog concluded his presentation by saying that on September 26, 2013, the MAG Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan for an air quality conformity analysis, and on October 9, 2013, the MAG Management Committee recommended approval. He noted that this item was on the agenda for action.

Chair Meck thanked Mr. Herzog for his report. No questions from the committee were noted.

Chair Meck recognized public comment from Dr. Marvin Rochelle, who expressed concern for pollution at the 43rd Avenue monitor. Dr. Rochelle stated that he hoped that the connection from

Loop 202 to Interstate 10, currently being considered at 51st Avenue or 55th Avenue, needs to continue past Cotton Lane in order to rid the area of pollution. Chair Meck thanked Dr. Rochelle for his comments.

Mr. Dave Berry moved to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan for an air quality conformity analysis. Mr. Joe LaRue seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Draft FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program - Listing of Projects for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Teri Kennedy, MAG staff, reported on the Draft FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for an air quality conformity analysis. She noted that the TIP represents the first five years of projects contained in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Ms. Kennedy stated that the TIP is developed in coordination with Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and member agencies, adheres to MAP-21 federal transportation funding, and integrates a competitive application process using a congestion management process.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the draft TIP incorporates existing regional plans, programs, and policies. She said that all of the lifecycle programs are included – arterial, transit, and freeway. Ms. Kennedy addressed the FTA Section 5307 program of projects, which funds preventive maintenance and Job Access and Reverse Commute projects. She displayed the timeline to develop the TIP, and said that the process began in 2012 and is projected to be finalized and projects ready to proceed by March 1, 2014.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the draft TIP includes 782 projects, with a total project cost estimated at more than \$4.43 billion. She noted that project costs included in the draft TIP listing is approximately \$1.5 billion for transit and \$2.8 billion for highways.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed next steps, including approval for a conformity analysis by the Regional Council on October 23, hold the final phase public meeting on November 25, conduct the approval process through the MAG committees and Regional Council, and submit to FHWA, FTA, EPA and ADOT for approval. Ms. Kennedy requested that member agencies please contact MAG staff if any additional project changes are required. She said that changes received after the full Listing of Projects was produced are included in the Errata Sheet included in the agenda packet.

Chair Meck thanked Ms. Kennedy for her report and asked members if they had questions.

Mr. Berry noted that Avondale purchased a 40-foot bus for \$579,000, while Valley Metro/RPTA purchased eight buses for a total of \$5,237,000. He asked if purchasing of buses was being coordinated and if there were variances in the amount paid by different jurisdictions. Ms. Kennedy replied that various reasons could contribute to different cost, such as the style of the buses. She

stated that Valley Metro does coordinate with ADOT and Phoenix to piggyback on some purchasing and allows for some cost savings.

Mr. Berry stated that he hoped to get the best price for the taxpayer, and that standardization of specs and a large purchasing power can lead to a good price. He added that he knew there was a difference in price between retail and fleet purchases. Ms. Kennedy explained that contracts are usually for a three-year period and can be extended. She added that costs can also vary depending on the year purchased.

Mr. Berry asked the number of buses in the region. Ms. Kennedy replied that she would research that number and report back to him.

Mr. Ron Barnes moved to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2014-2018 MAG Transportation Improvement Program - Listing of Projects for an air quality conformity analysis. Mayor Jerry Weiers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. MAGnitude - A Transportation Performance Dashboard

Monique De Los Rios Urban provided a report and live demonstration of a new web-based, interactive performance tool called MAGnitude. She said that MAG developed this tool for the communication of performance information on transportation facilities and services in the region. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that development of the Dashboard took about one year and gathered the massive amount of data from many sources. She noted that the data has been transformed to be usable by many different audiences, including the public.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban displayed how the buttons will direct users to different transportation modes. She said that the Freeway and Arterial pages are on the MAG website, and the Transit button links to the Valley Metro/RPTA website. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that the Dashboard is only one component of MAG's performance measurement program, which was developed as a result of requirements in Proposition 400 performance audit and MAP-21. She added that the Dashboard becomes a one-stop-shop experience to communicate system performance.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that the maps are interactive and zoomable. She said the legends on the maps take a user to various performance measures, such as throughput, speeds or traffic volumes, by peak periods and daily traffic patterns for the region. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that callouts have been added to aid people in understanding technical terms.

Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that segments can be selected from each freeway corridor which shows a more detailed view of the geography and a new set of charts. She stated that the arterial component was recently launched utilizing private sector information that provides speed data. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that the Dashboard includes speeds for the entire freeway system, not just the ADOT freeway management system. She noted that arterial pages include travel times, safety, and pedestrian/bicycle information will be included in the next phase of development. Ms. De Los Rios Urban stated that freeway and arterial information is available for years between 2009,

and 2012. She added that all of the data is also available in Excel format and used for consultant studies and calibration of the MAG travel demand model.

Chair Meck thanked Ms. De Los Rios Urban for her report and asked if there were questions.

Vice Chair Sellers remarked that this is a very impressive tool. He asked the schedule for updating the data. Ms. De Los Rios Urban replied that the freeway data are received every three months from the ADOT FTP site and the arterial data are purchased once each year from the private sector.

9. Legislative Update

Nathan Pryor, MAG staff, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. He noted that this is day 16 of the federal government shutdown. Mr. Pryor stated that the U. S. Senate has reached agreement, but the U. S. House still needs to vote. He reported that this agreement will fund the federal government through January 15, 2014, and raise the debt ceiling to February 7, 2014. Mr. Pryor stated that the bill process needs to be expedited in order to avoid the debt limit deadline.

Mr. Pryor reported that to-date, there have been no significant impacts to MAG's planning activities. He then addressed furloughs and said that Federal Highway Administration employees have been at work due to the fuel tax and existing federal legislation. Mr. Pryor stated that the Federal Transit Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Housing and Urban Development have all been impacted through furloughs. He advised that he will continue to monitor the situation as the country could be in a similar position in the January/February timeframe.

Chair Meck thanked Mr. Pryor for his report. No questions were noted.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Transportation Policy Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting were requested.

Chair Meck asked Mr. Berry if he would like staff to research his earlier question. Mr. Berry replied that he had received the answer to his question: 900 buses.

No requests were received.

11. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity was provided for Transportation Policy Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Transportation Policy Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

No comments were noted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Chair

Secretary